

AMBLESIDE OLD STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

L'UMILE PIANTA.

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held at 13, Chilworth Street, on June 18th, and it was decided, instead of a July number of the *Plant*, to substitute this Circular, to which it is hoped all students will especially give heed, in order to facilitate the future working of the Association.

It was resolved:—

I.—That the Assistant Editors be requested, when they have no material to send, to notify the Editor of the fact without fail on the last day fixed for receiving contributions, great delays and much inconvenience having been caused by the policy of silence.

II.—That in future *L'Umile Pianta* appear in January, March, May, July, September, and November. That all material *must* reach the Editor on or before the 1st of those months, so that the magazine may be ready for distribution by the 15th.

III.—That the magazine appear regularly and punctually, with or without the proper amount of contents.

IV.—That all addresses in future be given in full in each January number. This year the list will be printed in September, and will be reprinted with any necessary corrections in the January number.

The next number will appear on November 15th. All communications to reach the Editor by November 1st.

V.—That students be asked as a general rule to sign their articles, as the interest is thereby much increased, though unsigned articles will still be accepted on their merits.

VI.—That in order to increase the interest of students in the working of the Association, it is desirable that more

students should apply for the Agenda of Committee meetings, such meetings being advertised when possible in *L'Umile Pianta*.

VII.—That all students do their utmost to procure the new celluloid P.U.S. Badges for their children; these will cost 3d. each (by post 4d.) and will probably be on sale at the Conference.

The foregoing resolutions are a partial reprint from the leaflet published in July. Students will please note that only those addresses *marked* in the list have been verified, either by those named or their friends; the other students have not responded, and are therefore either not members of the Association or remarkably lax in their attitude towards it.

It was suggested at a recent meeting that articles on the topical history, geography, nature, etc., of the term's work should be asked for and obtained by the heads of the different years.

While delighted with the admirable suggestion, the present Editor desires to retain some control over the amount of matter and its nature. In order to print regularly, we can only afford a given number of pages, and perhaps three excellent articles all on the same subject might arrive—a point which some speakers at the last meeting had quite overlooked.

The Editor, therefore, begs the heads of years, and especially those who had interested themselves in this suggestion, to send *as soon as possible*, and *to her*, the names of those to whom it would be profitable to apply for articles, marking the names "Art," "Geography," "History," according to the talents and tastes of the possible writers. The Editor can then apply to them as space and opportunity demand.

Many of the Assistant Editors resigned subsequent to Article I. of the original leaflet. The following, who have always done good and loyal work, for which the Editor is very grateful, retain office:—

Travel Notes—Mrs. Esslemont, West Avenue, Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Book List—Miss E. H. Smith, St. Lawrence Vicarage, Ramsgate.

It was resolved at the last meeting that "Psychology Notes" should for obvious reasons always remain anonymous. It is much to be desired that more of these should be sent in.

An interesting article on "Trimingham" and many others kindly sent in, are held over for the future, though some were actually in proof, as the addresses need so many pages.

BUDGET GLEANINGS.

FROM "THE SOWERS" BUDGET (1908).

I think the Class II. Grammar Examination was rather disappointing. The children had done excellent pieces of analysis and parsing throughout the term, and yet their examinations were disgraceful. I think this is partly due to the fact that the questions are put in rather a puzzling manner, and the meaning of the poetry chosen is rather involved for Class II. The children would have understood "analyse" much better than "divide the sentence into two parts," though they know how to pick out the verbs, subjects, and objects.

—H. C. B.

One morning I took a child of thirteen on to the beach for a walk, and we found a sea anemone—the first she had seen. I took it off the rock where it was clinging and put it on a small stone in a pool, and breaking off a small cockle shell, put it near the anemone. Almost immediately the tentacles were spread out, and the tiny cockle animal was absorbed, the piece of shell clinging to it being put out. The child was delighted, and begged to be allowed to keep the anemone in a glass bowl, which she did, feeding it on bits of raw beef. The appetite of that anemone was astounding. —M. O. P.

DEAR EDITOR,—I have just had our "Ourselves' Budget," and seen the note about the "Golden Oriole." I am sorry to say we never saw the golden bird that we took to be the oriole here, more than the twice I mentioned, but have no other name for it. It has been seen here some years ago, but not at all lately.

But what are interesting us now so much are the nightjars. For the last week we have heard them, and last night we saw two, early this morning three, and this evening five, besides others calling in the distance. I remember hearing someone had seen one at Ambleside near Fox Howe, but never till now knew how quaint and interesting they were. Sometimes they fly *quite* silently with big flaps from one clump of pines to another, settling on the branches lengthways, and looking just like a piece of them.

This evening we were almost on top of one, when it got up and circled round about us and overhead, making the queerest evolutions and sometimes making a clicking noise with its wings and uttering a sort of cry that sounded like o-ic, o-ic. They are jar-r-r-r-r-r-ring away now as I write, a long r-r sound, and then a drop of a few degrees, rather a pleasant sound like a very busy mowing machine. They nearly always nest (or rather lay their eggs) somewhere among the fallen cones and pine needles here, so we are hoping not to be disappointed this year. This is an ideal spot for birds, as there is marsh land, moor, wood, pine land, meadows, and open warren. We have seventy-five birds on our list at present. Blackcaps, white-throats, willow wrens, chiff-chaff, garden warbler, sedge warbler, nightingales are nesting.

We have had flocks of crossbills since last September, and have watched them more or less the whole time, but *cannot* find a nest. We have seen the flocks separate and pair off, heard them singing, besides the harsh note they have on the wing, and even seen them with twigs and feathers in their mouths, but nowhere can we find them nesting; nor have we seen any that look like young ones.

Ringed dotterel often come whistling over the grounds, and I have just heard the high shrill cry of the Norfolk plover.—
Yours,
J. W.

I wonder if you heard any very intimate account of the very impressive scenes in London from the 17th to the 20th. Colonel X., as bodyguard, was on duty in Westminster Hall at the Lying-in-State, and there they stood for one hour at a time, all day, with streams and streams of mourners passing by, a great silent crowd, and after the people (from 10 to 12) many members of the Royal Family, including the Kaiser; then an absolute silence, until 6 next morning, when the streams of mourners began again.

What was more impressive than anything else, Colonel X. says, was the changing guard in the middle of the night, in absolute silence, and without any command, and then the long last silent salute before leaving the hall. I hardly know whether I should like to have been there or not; the one great thing splendid to see must have been the wonderful patriotism and loyalty of the people.—Yours affectionately,

J. W.

BUDGET GLEANINGS 1903.

General Knowledge.—This is a game in which everybody is provided with a sheet of paper and a pencil and a number. On a slip of the paper everyone writes down two questions, of which she knows the answer. The questions must be such that the others may possibly know the answers. Examples: "What is the worst wind for lambing?" "How many octaves are there on this piano?" "What coloured tie did father wear yesterday?" Then No. 1 person hands her question paper to No. 2, and No. 2 to No. 3, etc. Each person answers the questions on her sheet of paper, and then the question slips are handed on again, and so on till each

question slip reaches its owner. Then the answers are read aloud, and marks may be awarded for correct replies.

Another paper and pencil game: Each person has a sheet of paper and a small short strip and a long strip of paper. On the small one everybody writes a noun, and on the long one a verb. The strips are put together, shuffled, and every-one then draws a long and a short strip. Then each person must write eight lines of "poetry," using both noun and verb. The results are amusing, and sometimes very clever.

BOOKS.

"Myths of Rome and Greece," by H. G. Goubet.

The "Works of Francesca Alexander" (drawings, prose writings, and poems of her Italian peasant friends, of great charm and beauty), including "Christ's Folk in the Appennines," "The Story of Ida," "Roadside Songs of Tuscany," "Hidden Servants," etc. Published by Allen.

"First and Second Lessons in Bach," edited by Dr. Walter Carrol. Published by Forsyth Bros., Manchester. "First Lessons" costs 1s. 6d. "These are exceptionally pretty short pieces of Bach, easy and carefully graduated, very useful either as pieces or studies."

NATURE NOTES.

A student in Suffolk writes: "There is an albino thrush in the garden. We noticed it last autumn, and then we saw no more of it until February 10th. It does not get on with the other thrushes, and keeps quite close to the house. I am trying to discover if it has a nest."

The "Wild Flower Society" publishes a "Field Botanist's Diary," with names of wild flowers according to Bentham and Hooker and spaces for entering the date and place of finding for two years. Those who have no time to keep a nature note-book, but who like to have a record of the flowers they see, should find this diary useful. Price 2s. 2d., from

Harvey Goodwin, Esq., Orton Hall, Tebay, Westmorland, who will give any information about the society.

A student suggests that students living in districts rich in crystals or other stones mentioned in the books set for the term's work, or in insectivorous plants to illustrate "Glimpses," might like to help those who cannot so easily obtain them.

[Several other somewhat similar suggestions having been received, the S.E.C. have started, as announced elsewhere, a "bureau of exchange" for picture postcards, books, specimens, etc., with Miss Bernau as secretary. Its success depends on the response given by those able to lend, as well as by those wishing to borrow.]

GLEANINGS FROM THE "ORIONID" BUDGET.

SELF-MEASURING RAIN-GAUGE.

In this there are two cups on a pivot, and when the top one is full the weight makes it fall and the other cup replaces it. Every time a cup falls the hand turns round .01 inches.

BIRD NOTES.

This morning we saw a mother thrush teaching her child to find worms and grubs, and she afforded a lesson in teaching. She found a worm and made a great fuss about pulling it out of the ground, her child standing by, gazing at the sky in rather an inattentive and annoying way. Then she popped it into baby's mouth (this gained its attention) and repeated the lesson. After a time (two minutes) she thought the lesson long enough and went for a walk while baby rested.

Later she returned to the fray, and this time baby began to have some notion of the game and ran to see and help pull out the morsel. The last thing I saw was baby in a very independent and sturdy way pulling out a worm of its own finding and eating it.

Would that all children were so easily taught—or, shall I say, would that all teachers were so clever?

CANADIAN GEESE ON THE CHESHIRE MERES.

These birds were introduced in the first place to Mere Mere, but are now naturalised. They fly from mere to mere in perfect V formation. Their cry when on the wing is particularly weird and musical too. In colour they are black and white. In family life on the mere, papa goose leads the way, followed by his children in single file, whilst mother goose brings up the rear.

QUERY.

Do birds prefer boxes with circular bases to those which have square ones?

DO WATER BOATMEN CHANGE THEIR SKINS AS A RULE?

We had two water boatmen, size .5 centimetre; one morning we found two boatmen 1 centimetre long and two empty skins floating about. Our conclusion was that they grew by changing their skins.

BOOK NOTE.—THE CAMBRIDGE COUNTY GEOGRAPHIES.

In this series, each county has a book to itself; each book treats of the physical features, including geology, the natural history and flora, people, industries, history, antiquities, and points of architectural interest.

COCKNEY PLEASURES.

Two ex-students went to Chislehurst with some Country Holiday Fund children, one taking her post-child with her. The joy of the children on seeing the flowers was most pathetic. "Ooo-ah, teacher, look at this 'ere lilock," pointing to a chestnut tree in full bloom. Or, "Ah! 'tain't 'arf perty, be it?" "See 'em l'le birds; be they furreners?" pointing to two jolly cock chaffinches. Their conversation with C— (post-child) was most amusing. They were most of them older. "'Spose you 'ave ter 'ave a nurse runnin' abaht arter yer?" Or, "Oo! I'd like ter be rich and go fer long 'olidays ter the sea an' all that. But I wouldn't like t'ave a

nurse follering me abaht." And, "Ah! that's all very fine, but I lay you can't play out of doors on the pavement, nor you wouldn't be allowed to ride on the backs of the 'busses. An' I dan't 'spose yer've ever 'ad a ride on the tail-board av a van! 'Tain't 'arf fun, that ain't." This was not in the least chaff or impudence, but merely sincere sympathy with C——'s fearfully dull existence.

STUDENTS' MEETINGS.

At the Students' Meeting at Chilworth Street on May 7th the following were present: The Misses Glenny, Judd, Stainton, Wiseman (1905), Davis, Young (1906), Franklin (1907).

Swedish drill formed the chief topic of conversation, and those who use the "Syllabus of Physical Exercises" mentioned on the programmes praised it very highly. It was also remarked that the present-day view was to introduce as much "stretching" as possible into the drill.

One student present recommended the maps, both physical and outline, of the counties of England (for use with Book III., Ambleside Geography), which are published by G. Philip and Son Ltd. They measure only eight inches by six, but have been found most useful.

It was much regretted that Miss E. Kitching had been obliged to return to Ambleside that very morning, as otherwise she had intended being present.

At the Students' Meeting at Chilworth Street on July 2nd, there were only three students present—Miss Parish, Miss Franklin, and myself. We were sorry more were not there to enjoy the lovely flowers, particularly a jar of blue campanulas. No doubt the constant heavy showers prevented students from venturing far from home. We discussed no business in particular, but talked about the Conference and Mrs. Franklin's "At Home." It was very nice to see Miss Parish, as it is so long since she has been at one of the ordinary meetings.

LILIAN GRAY.

By kind permission of Mrs. Franklin the students, past and present, met at Porchester Terrace on the Friday afternoon of Conference week. A list of those present will be found further on. After a delightful afternoon of tea and gossip in the garden, a more formal meeting was held in the drawing-room, when the Editor called the attention of those students present to the recent leaflet, its causes, and the effects which were to be hoped for from it. A discussion followed as to whether there was not far too much "indifference" amongst the students as a body to the nature and working of their association. Those present, being naturally the keen and loyal, were inclined to doubt that the feeling was widespread, but it was very obvious that any officer of the association finds great difficulties in the way of active work. An excellent suggestion was made that if at future committee meetings any member was unable to be present, she should have the right to appoint a substitute to go in her place. The meeting concluded with a very hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Franklin for her kind hospitality.

M. Hall (1892), M. W. Kitching (1893), F. Rankin (December, 1894), *N. K. Magill (1895), M. Disbrey (December, 1895), K. M. Conder, L. Gray (July, 1896), *M. R. Clark, M. Conder, E. M. MacSheehy (December, 1896), *Mrs. T. W. Smith (Marion Flower) (1897), R. A. Pennethorne (1898), *Mrs. Stanley Clifford (Olive Clark), M. E. Evans, L. Faunce, Mrs. Hall (E. Spearman) (1899), E. M. G. Saunders (1900), S. Hirtzel (1901), A. C. Drury, C. N. Heath, L. Lees, E. M. Pike, E. A. Parish, W. F. Wilkinson (?) (1902), E. Flower, V. R. Saunders, M. E. Wilkinson (?) (1904), L. Beatty (1905), M. E. Davis (1906), M. E. Franklin, G. Bradford (1907), J. H. Smith (1909), *D. S. Courtney, D. F. Evans (1908), P. C. Kinnear, G. Viney, D. Viney, and several other present students.

Future meetings at 13, Chilworth Street, will be held on the first Saturday of every month, beginning October 2nd at 3.30.